

SECRET

ENCLOSURE

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

Report by the  
State-War-Navy Coordinating Subcommittee  
for Special Studies and Evaluations

THE PROBLEM

1. To study and report, and specifically to make recommendations upon which a reply may be based to the request to the Navy Department from the Director, Legislative Reference Service, Library of Congress, for any information that may properly be given out concerning psychological warfare in World War II, with special reference to illustrations of its successful employment in bringing about the surrender of Japan and of enemy European countries; to study and report on whether information on the existence and transactions of the Subcommittee concerning psychological warfare can be presented to a member of Congress under safe security in relation to the bill on this subject which it is understood this member is preparing for introduction into the Congress.

ASSUMPTION

2. The establishment of an organization or organizations or facilities for psychological warfare by legislative action would entail hearings on this subject before Congressional committees related to such purposes, under security procedure.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

3. Reference is made to paragraph 8 b of the Charter (Appendix "A", SWNCC 304/1, 304/2):

"The Subcommittee on Psychological Warfare shall: ...b. Maintain close liaison with the appropriate policy offices of the State, War and Navy Departments and with authorized coordinating agencies of other departments of the Government of the United States".

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4. The Office of War Information was established by Executive Order 9182 dated 13 June 1942 and amended on 10 March 1943. The Office of Strategic Services was established by Military Order on 13 June 1942. Both established organizations and procedures for the application of certain aspects of psychological warfare. Both agencies were terminated after the conclusion of hostilities, and certain of their activities transferred to the State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency.

5. No national organization for psychological warfare other than the State-War-Navy Coordinating Subcommittee for Special Studies and Evaluations has been established.

CONCLUSIONS

6. The information (Appendix) which can be provided the Director, Legislative Reference Service, Library of Congress, at this time, although limited, will be of value as background to the subject.

7. Legislation introduced into Congress providing for psychological warfare activities should have the advantage of recourse to the factors underlying the studies now being carried on by the Subcommittee and should be in reasonable consonance so far as possible with the objectives outlined in SWNCC 304/1 and 304/2.

RECOMMENDATIONS

8. It is recommended that:

- a. The conclusions above be approved.
- b. The Department of the Navy transmit to the Director, Legislative Reference Service, Library of Congress, the information contained in the Appendix, which is declassified for this purpose.
- c. SWNCC authorize the Chairman of the Subcommittee for Special Studies and Evaluations to convey to a member of Congress, under strict security, the frame of reference under which the Subcommittee studies are being carried on,

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the essential facts of the Charter (SWNCC 304/1 and 304/2), and the objectives to which the studies of the Subcommittee are being addressed. This information to be communicated orally to a member of Congress as indicated in the foregoing within the extent and limits of a written draft to be approved by the Subcommittee.

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